

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 1. (Currently Amended) Method for forming transport frames to be transmitted on a  
2 communication channel, from coded-signal frames, wherein each coded-signal frame comprises  
3 at least one set of bits to be protected against transmission errors, the method comprising the  
4 steps of:

- 5 - calculating a respective error detection code for at least one subset of bits included in said  
6 at least one set; and
- 7 - placing said at least one subset of bits in a respective transport frame with the error  
8 detection code calculated therefor,

9 wherein at least some of the transport frames contain a plurality of subsets of bits, emanating  
10 from different coded-signal frames and accompanied by the respective error detection codes  
11 calculated therefor and wherein the transport frames and the coded-signal frames comprise the  
12 same duration, and the content of N consecutive coded-signal frames is inserted into M  
13 consecutive transport frames, N and M being numbers such that  $N > M$ .

1 2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the number of bits of  
2 said subsets varies from one coded-signal frame to another, and the number of bits of the error  
3 detection code calculated for a subset of bits is an increasing function of the number of bits of  
4 said subset.

1 3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in each transport  
2 frame, the total number of bits from said sets of bits to be protected is constant, as well as the  
3 total number of bits of said error detection codes.

1 4. (Currently Amended) Device for forming transport frames to be transmitted on a  
2 communication channel, from coded-signal frames, wherein each coded-signal frame comprises  
3 at least one set of bits to be protected against transmission errors, including at least one subset of  
4 bits, the device comprising:

5 - means for calculating a respective error detection code for said at least one subset of bits;  
6 and

7 - multiplexing means for placing said at least one subset of bits in a transport frame with  
8 the error detection code calculated therefor,

9 wherein the multiplexing means are arranged to place a plurality of subsets of bits, emanating  
10 from different coded-signal frames and accompanied by the respective error detection codes  
11 calculated therefor, in at least some of the transport frames, and wherein the transport frames and  
12 the coded-signal frames are of the same duration, and the content of N consecutive coded-signal  
13 frames is inserted into M consecutive transport frames, N and M being numbers such that  $N > M$ .

1 5. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the number of bits of  
2 said subsets varies from one coded-signal frame to another, and the number of bits of the error  
3 detection code calculated for a subset of bits is an increasing function of the number of bits of  
4 said subset.

1 6. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein, in each transport  
2 frame, the total number of bits from said sets of bits to be protected is constant, as well as the  
3 total number of bits of said error detection codes.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 6, further comprising coding  
2 means for applying, in each transport frame, an error correcting code to a block formed by the  
3 subsets of bits originating from said sets of bits to be protected and by the error detection codes  
4 respectively calculated therefor.

1 8. (Cancelled)

1 9. (Currently Amended) A device for extracting coded-signal frames from transport frames  
2 received on a communication channel, wherein each coded-signal frame comprises at least one  
3 set of bits protected against transmission errors, including at least one subset of bits, the device  
4 comprising demultiplexing means for extracting from each transport frame at least one of said  
5 subsets of bits, along with a respective error detection code, wherein the demultiplexing means  
6 are arranged to extract a plurality of subsets of bits from at least some of the transport frames,  
7 and to distribute the extracted subsets of bits, associated with their respective error detection  
8 codes, in different coded-signal frames, and wherein the transport frames and the coded-signal  
9 frames are of the same duration, and the content of N consecutive coded-signal frames is  
10 extracted from M consecutive transport frames, N and M being numbers such that  $N > M$ .

1 10. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the number of bits of  
2 said subsets varies from one coded-signal frame to another, and the number of bits of the error  
3 detection code for a subset of bits is an increasing function of the number of bits of said subset.

1 11. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein, in each transport  
2 frame, the total number of bits from said sets of bits to be protected is constant, as well as the  
3 total number of bits of said error detection codes.

1 12. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 11, further comprising decoding  
2 means for correcting transmission errors in a block formed, in each transport frame, by the bits  
3 pertaining to said sets of protected bits and by said error detection codes.

1 13. (Cancelled)